

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 L-03

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /074 W

----- 115428

R 171219Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8578

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, TH, LA, CB

SUBJ: RTG POLICY ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: BANGKOK 2193

1. BANGKOK POST FEBRUARY 17 CARRIES MAJOR HEADLINE  
READING "GOVERNMENT CLOSES DOOR ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES."  
THE ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY UNNAMED "POST REPORTERS", SAYS  
THAT THE THAI/KHMER BORDER COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED THAT  
THAILAND WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY MORE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES  
FLEEING INTO THE COUNTRY AND INSTEAD "WILL PROSECUTE  
THEM IN COURT AND DEPORT THEM BACK TO THE COUNTRIES THEY  
CAME FROM" THE DECISION IS CHARACTERIZED AS AWAITING  
FORMAL CABINET APPROVAL.

2. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED UNHCR AND COL. KAMOL, HEAD  
OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS OPERATIONS CENTER OF MINISTRY OF  
INTERIOR AND OUR CHIEF WORKING CONTACT. KMAOL SAYS  
THAT THIS IS NOTHING NEW AND HAS, IN THEORY, BEEN THE  
POLICY SINCE AUGUST. HE DOES NOT FORESEEN ANY MAJOR  
NEW EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY. PRESENTLY RTG  
PROCEDURES ARE TO ARREST SOME OF THE REFUGEES ARRIVING,  
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TRY THEM IN COURT, AND AFTER CONVICTION CONFINED THEM TO

JAIL FOR PERIODS RANGING UP TO SIX MONTHS. AFTER THIS, THE REFUGEES ARE RETURNED TO CAMPS. KAMOL DID INDICATE THIS PROCEDURE MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT ALTERED BY CONFINING NEW ARRIVALS TO A SPECIAL AREA IN EACH CAMP. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS MIGHT OCCUR AFTER JAIL TIME HAS BEEN SERVED OR IN LIEU OF IT.

3. THE UNHCR DOES NOT YET SEE ANY AMJOR CHANGE IN THAI POLICY ON REFUGEES ALGHTOUGH THEY FEEL THE MATTER MAY BE HEADED FOR CABIENT CONSIDERATION. WE AND THE UNHCR CONTINUE TO BE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE SMALL NUMBER OF DEPORTATION CASES ALREADY REPORTED REFTEL AND SOME INDICATION THAT SUCH DEPORTATIONS ON A VERY SMALL SCALE MAY BE CONTINUING FOR LAO/MEO REFUGEES.

4. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED IF THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT POST ARTICLE IS BASED ON ACTUAL RTG DECISION OR IF MATTER GETS CABINET TREATMENT. WE ARE PROBABLY STILL NOT ON POINT OF ACTIVE RTG EFFORTS TO TURN AWAY REFUGEES ALTHOUGH THE IDEA BECOMES MORE APPEALING TO THE THAI AS REFUGEES CONTINUE TO ARRIVE AND THE RTG MORE AND MORE FEELS ITSELF OVERWHELMED.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLICIES, PRESS COMMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** vogelfj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO03554  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760058-1010  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ORM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BANGKOK 2193  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RTG POLICY ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES  
**TAGS:** SREF, TH, LA, CB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006